

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 140

By McDonald

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Roger Dale Pullen on his service to the town of Westmoreland and the Veterans of the State of Tennessee.

WHEREAS, our nation was conceived by individuals who were willing to sacrifice their personal safety and concerns to ensure our individual and collective freedom, and the Volunteer State is especially proud to honor those many valiant men and women who have performed above and beyond the call of duty; and

WHEREAS, one such noteworthy person is Roger Dale Pullen of Westmoreland, who served boldly with the United States Army, sustaining a wound, and who has since devoted much of his life to improving the lives of Veterans in this great State; and

WHEREAS, born on August 13, 1949, in Limestone County, Alabama, Mr. Pullen joined the United States Army in 1966 and served in combat as a Ranger until May 31, 1968, when he was wounded in several places; and

WHEREAS, he was sent to Japan, where he underwent surgery before returning to Fort Sam Houston in the United States, where he spent two and a half years recovering from his wounds; and

WHEREAS, in August of 1970, Roger Pullen received his medical discharge and left the Army as a Sergeant, returning to Alabama; and

WHEREAS, in 1972, he went to work for Tennessee Valley Authority before transferring to Gallatin in 1973 to work at the Gallatin Steam Plant; he worked there until 1990 when he was run over by a horse and forced to retire; and

WHEREAS, in June of 1994, Mr. Pullen was diagnosed with Leukemia, which led to a 1996 bone transplant, a 1998 double hip replacement, and three stem cell transplants also in 1998 at Vanderbilt Hospital; and

WHEREAS, when none of the stem cell transplants worked, doctors agreed that there was nothing more they could do, but in February of 2001, one doctor sent Mr. Pullen to MD Anderson Hospital in Houston, Texas, where he received medication that finally worked; and

WHEREAS, in January of 2003, Roger Pullen experienced yet another setback when he fell at home and broke his leg in five places, leading to the surgical insertion of a metal rod into his leg; and

WHEREAS, weakened in body but not in morale, Roger Pullen then focused his endeavors on the mission of helping Veterans and their families; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Pullen has been a lifetime member of the Disabled American Veterans since 2005, the Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA) since 2004, and the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) since 2003, and he was voted Veteran of the Year by his peers at the VVA in both 2006 and 2008 for his devotion to Veterans; and

WHEREAS, in 2006, Roger Pullen opened a food bank for military families to ensure that no Veteran or veteran's family ever felt forgotten; he is currently helping feed forty-eight families in the Westmoreland area; and

WHEREAS, in addition to meeting the physical needs of Veterans and their families, Mr. Pullen has taken it upon himself to help Veterans or their surviving families receive the medals they have earned, and in cooperation with Congressman Bart Gordon, he works to see that every Veteran is given the recognition he or she deserves; and

WHEREAS, realizing the limitations of only one food bank and desiring to help more people, Roger Pullen succeeded in getting the Second Harvest to form a food bank in Westmoreland; and

WHEREAS, he personally came up with the innovative idea to create a Veterans Wall in Westmoreland, sketching the idea in his own home and putting it into the hands of people who could see it through; and

WHEREAS, with the collaboration of the Mayor, the Council, the Westmoreland VFW, and the donations of many generous sponsors, Roger Pullen's idea materialized in the form of a beautiful memorial wall in Westmoreland, with brick orders now coming in from across the United States; and

WHEREAS, Roger Dale Pullen has devoted himself as a soldier, a Veteran, and a citizen of the United States, to the betterment of the lives of others, living a life of leadership, dedication, perseverance amid challenges, and achievement; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor and commend Roger Dale Pullen for his bravery in service, his dedication in life, and his tireless efforts to improve the quality of life for the Veterans of this great State, for their families, and for the surrounding community.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.